

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 March 2005 (31.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/028098 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B01J 19/18,**
C08F 2/01

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/010376

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
16 September 2004 (16.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10344501.3 24 September 2003 (24.09.2003) DE
60/532,411 16 December 2003 (16.12.2003) US
10361156.8 22 December 2003 (22.12.2003) DE
60/543,359 10 February 2004 (10.02.2004) US

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

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Published:

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: LOOP REACTOR WITH VARYING DIAMETER FOR OLEFIN POLYMERIZATION

(57) Abstract: Process for polymerizing at least one olefinic monomer in a loop reactor at from 20 to 150°C, but below the melting point of the polymer to be formed, and a pressure of from 5 to 100 bar, where the polymer formed is present in a suspension in a liquid or supercritical suspension medium and this suspension is circulated by means of an axial pump, wherein the polymerization is carried out at an average solids concentration in the reactor of more than 53% by weight, based on the total mass of the contents of the reactor, in the case of continuous product discharge and at an average solids concentration in the reactor of more than 45% by weight, based on the total mass of the contents of the reactor, in the case of discontinuous product discharge, and wherein the polymerization is carried out at an ethylene concentration of at least 10 mol%, based on the suspension medium. The loop reactor has a diameter which varies by at least 10% and in which there is at least one widening and narrowing in a region other than that of the axial pump.



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